

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US OPENING STATEMENT FOR UN OUTER SPACE LEGAL
SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC)

1. MR. CHAIRMAN, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION JOINS
WITH THE OTHERS IN EXPRESSING PLEASURE THAT YOU ARE
PRESIDING AGAIN OVER OUR DELIBERATIONS AND AT THE
OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW, IN THIS, THE XVI SESSION OF THE
LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE, OUR ASSOCIATION IN THE WORK OF AD-
VANCING INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW.

2. IN THE TIME SINCE OUR PREVIOUS SESSION WE HAVE SEEN
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THE ENTRY INTO FORCE, ON SEPTEMBER 15, 1976, OF THE
REGISTRATION CONVENTION, A RESULT OF OUR LABORS IN
SEVERAL PAST SESSIONS, AND A MILESTONE ACCOMPLISHMENT
IN WHICH THIS SUBCOMMITTEE CAN TAKE A MEASURE OF JUSTI-
FIABLE PRIDE. SINCE ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE, THE REGISTRA-
TION CONVENTION HAS BEEN RATIFIED BY TWO MORE SIGNA-
TORIES, FOR A TOTAL OF SEVEN TO DATE. MY DELEGATION
WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS GRATIFICATION AT THE
ACCESSION OF A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL STATES TO THE OTHER
TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE HAS HAD

SO SIGNIFICANT A ROLE IN BRINGING INTO EXISTENCE. SINCE THE DATE OF OUR LAST ADJOURNMENT, FOUR ADDITIONAL NATIONS

HAVE BECOME STATES PARTIES TO THE OUTER SPACE TREATY, TWO COUNTRIES AND ONE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION HAVE ACCEDED TO OR RATIFIED THE ASTRONAUT AGREEMENT, AND SIX COUNTRIES HAVE, BY ACCESSION OR RATIFICATION, BECOME NEW STATES PARTIES TO THE LIABILITY CONVENTION.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR IN SPACE, AND I WOULD LIKE, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO TAKE JUST A FEW MOMENTS TO MENTION SOME OF THEM BEFORE GOING ON TO THE SPECIFIC MATTERS ON OUR CURRENT AGENDA.

A. THE SPACE SHUTTLE TESTING PROGRAM IS PRESENTLY CONTINUING AT NASA'S DRYDEN FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER, IN CALIFORNIA. MOST OF YOU ARE GENERALLY AWARE THAT THE SHUTTLE ORBITER IS DESIGNED TO PROCEED DIRECTLY INTO ORBIT WITH A PAYLOAD AND THEN RETURN TO A LANDING AT ITS HOME BASE. THE REUSE OF LAUNCH VEHICLES HAS HERETOFORE BEEN BEYOND THE STATE OF AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY. WITH THE ADVENT OF THE SHUTTLE, WE WILL ALSO SEE THE FRUITION OF ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AND CHALLENGING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SPACE AGE. I REFER, OF COURSE, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY'S SPACELAB UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR OPERATION WITH THE SHUTTLE IN ORDER TO PLACE A VARIETY OF PAYLOADS INTO ORBIT. TESTING OF THE SHUTTLE WILL CONTINUE THROUGH 1979, WITH THE FIRST OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS TAKING PLACE IN 1980. I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JOINT OPERATIONS OF THE SHUTTLE AND EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY'S SPACELAB HAS NOT BEEN RESTRICTED TO SCIENTISTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED; IN FACT, THERE ARE ALREADY PLANNED EXPERIMENTS SELECTED FROM 16 COUNTRIES. MORE THAN 220 SCIENTISTS ARE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNED SPACELAB I MISSION, SELECTED FROM OVER 2,000 RESPONDING TO VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OPPORTUNITY PUBLISHED WORLDWIDE. WHEN USED, THE SPACELAB WILL REMAIN FIXED IN SHUTTLE ORBITER THROUGHOUT THEIR JOINT FLIGHTS. THE SPACELAB WILL CONTAIN WORKING SPACE FOR THE PAYLOAD SPECIALISTS WHO ACCOMPANY IT, AND THE ORBITER WILL CONTAIN CREW LIVING QUARTERS AND WILL SUPPLY POWER FOR ALL LIFE SUPPORT AND OTHER SYSTEMS ONBOARD THE SPACELAB AND THE SHUTTLE. THE WORKING CONDITIONS ONBOARD THE SHUTTLE AND IN THE SPACELAB WILL BE A QUOTE SHIRT-SLEEVE UNQUOTE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CREW AND THE SCIENTISTS IN SPACE.

B. THE SHUTTLE AND THE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION OF THE

SPACELAB TOGETHER CONSTITUTE THE NUCLEUS OF A QUOTE
SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM UNQUOTE WHICH WILL BE

EXTENSIVELY UTILIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

C. FINAL SELECTION OF THE PAYLOAD COMPLEMENT FOR THE
FIRST FLIGHT OF SPACELAB WAS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 16 AND
REPORTED TO THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE
BY THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ON FEBRUARY 24, 1977. PLANS
ARE ALSO NOW BEING MADE FOR A FREE-FLYING LONG DURATION
EXPOSURE FACILITY TO BE PLACED IN ORBIT.

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D. ALSO VERY RECENTLY IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND POPULAR
NEWS HAVE BEEN THE RESULTS OF THE VIKING MISSIONS TO THE
PLANET MARS. THE VIKING ORBITERS AND LANDERS ARE CON-
TINUING ANALYSIS OF THE MARTIAN PLANET, ITS ENVIRONMENT
AND SURFACE CONDITIONS.

E. ATS-6, NASA'S EXPERIMENTAL BROADCAST SATELLITE, IS
AGAIN ON STATION ABOVE THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND READY
TO BEGIN A THIRD YEAR OF EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS. WE HAVE
REFERRED ON PAST OCCASIONS TO A NUMBER OF EXPERIMENTS
WITH ATS-6 DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS, BEGINNING WITH ITS
BROADCASTS OVER THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT AND FOLLOWED
BY ITS USE IN THE SITE EXPERIMENT, A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM
OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION BROADCASTING CONDUCTED BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. THE ATS-6 WILL BE USED IN SIMILAR
PROGRAMS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. IT IS HOPED THAT THE
REMAINING SUPPLY OF POWER IN THIS SATELLITE WILL ENABLE
SEVERAL MORE YEARS OF EXPERIMENTATION. A SOMEWHAT
HIGHER POWERED SATELLITE, THE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
SATELLITE (CTS), HAS BEEN OPERATING SINCE JANUARY, 1976,
A JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. THE
CTS IS BEING USED TO BROADCAST TO SMALL, RELATIVELY
INEXPENSIVE GROUND TERMINALS, IN EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH
CARE, COMMUNITY AND SPECIAL SERVICE BROADCASTING AND FOR
OTHER COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIMENTS.

F. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO FURNISH LAUNCH SERVICES
FOR A VARIETY OF USERS OTHER THAN ITSELF. TWELVE OF THE
23 LAUNCHES SCHEDULED BY NASA FOR THIS YEAR--BETTER
THAN 50 --ARE SCHEDULED FOR NON-U.S. ENTITIES, SOME
NATIONAL AND SOME MULTILATERAL. AND THE BENEFITS OF MANY
PAST NASA LAUNCHES AND THE ASSOCIATED MISSIONS CONTINUES
TO BE SHARED, SUCH AS THE CASE WITH THE ONGOING LUNAR
SAMPLE STUDIES, WHICH INVOLVE HUNDREDS OF SCIENTISTS IN
SOME 20 COUNTRIES.

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4. THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OFFICIALLY SHARING IN NASA'S LANDSAT RESEARCH PROGRAMS IS NOW OVER 50. MR. CHAIRMAN, I THINK THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS OF SPACE RESEARCH THAT HAS

YET BEEN UNDERTAKEN IS THE LANDSAT SERIES OF REMOTE SENSING SATELLITES. PRESENTLY CONTINUING IN ORBIT ARE BOTH LANDSAT 1 AND 2, FROM BOTH OF WHICH SO MUCH USEFUL DATA HAS BEEN RECEIVED. THE PROGRAM INVOLVES THE WORLD-WIDE COLLECTION OF DATA AND IMAGERY FROM THE EARTH'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES, AND THE BENEFICIAL APPLICATIONS ARE LIKEWISE WORLDWIDE. THE LANDSAT PROGRAM HAS ENABLED UNIQUELY VALUABLE STUDIES OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF CROPS, NATURAL VEGETATION, RAINFALL AND HYDROLOGY STUDIES, THE SCIENCE OF CARTOGRAPHY, LAND USE AND PLANNING, POLLUTION CONTROL, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER APPLICATIONS. ALL OF THE IMAGERY COLLECTED IN THE UNITED STATES FROM LANDSAT IS AVAILABLE FROM THE EARTH RESOURCES CENTER AT SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, WHICH HAS ALREADY SERVED CUSTOMERS FROM APPROXIMATELY 130 COUNTRIES. WE ARE ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO NOTE THAT GROUND STATIONS TO RECEIVE, PROCESS AND DISSEMINATE LANDSAT DATA ARE NOW OPERATING IN BRAZIL, CANADA, AND ITALY, IN ADDITION TO THE UNITED STATES. OTHER GROUND STATIONS ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR BEING PLANNED IN CHILE, IRAN, ZAIRE, AND ARGENTINA, AND STILL OTHER NATIONS ARE PLANNING ADDITIONAL STATIONS.

LANDSAT 1 IS NEARING THE END OF ITS OPERATING LIFE, WHICH HAS ALREADY GREATLY EXCEEDED THE ORIGINAL DESIGN LIFE OF ONE YEAR. LANDSAT 2 CONTINUES TO FUNCTION WELL AND RETURN MUCH USEFUL DATA. LANDSAT C COULD BE LAUNCHED AS EARLY AS THE FALL OF THIS YEAR, BUT IF LANDSAT 2 CONTINUES AS AT PRESENT, THE LANDSAT C LAUNCH MAY BE DEFERRED UNTIL SOMETIME IN EARLY 1978. IT IS HOPED THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PLACE INTO ORBIT YET ANOTHER LANDSAT SATELLITE, PRESENTLY DENOTED AS LANDSAT-D, TENTATIVELY UNCLASSIFIED

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SOMETIME AROUND 1981, IF THE EXPENDITURE OF THE NECESSARY FUNDS IS APPROVED BY THE US CONGRESS. THE GLOBAL VALUE OF REMOTE SENSING HAS BEEN NOTED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS BY MANY DELEGATIONS, AND BY THE SECRETARIAT IN VARIOUS REPORTS, AND MY DELEGATION IS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO REPORT THESE RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF REMOTE SENSING.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER, PERHAPS LESS WELL PUBLICIZED INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF SPACE RESEARCH THAT HAVE YIELDED HIGHLY BENEFICIAL RESULTS. IN 1976 THE TWO GERMAN/US COOPERATIVE HELIOS SOLAR PROBES MADE THE CLOSEST-EVER PERIHELION PASSAGES, CLOSER TO THE SUN THAN

ONE-THIRD THE SUN-EARTH DISTANCE. THE SCIENTIFIC RESULTS
INCLUDE IMPORTANT NEW DATA ON THE SOLAR MAGNETIC FIELDS
AND ON SOLAR AND TERRESTRIAL INTERACTIONS. THE UNIVERSITY
OF
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